



IPA Newsletter

June - August, 2018

Official Publication of the International Polka Association, Inc. ®

I hope everyone is having a fantastic summer.

Preparations are in full swing for the 50th Anniversary IPA Festival Labor Day Weekend at the Millennium Hotel in Buffalo. Christy Krawisz and the committee have been working hard to make the weekend a special celebration.

I am happy to say that the IPA has reached the 1,000 member milestone. Thanks to Laura Mateja, Dennis Mikolajewski, Lori Urbanczyk and Diane Pojedynski for working membership drives to help us reach this goal. Thank you to the Blazonczyk family for letting us run the membership drive at Seven Springs, and to The Brothers Dombrowski for letting us run another drive at Ocean Beach Park Polka Days.

Have a great polka summer, and I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our 50th anniversary celebration in Buffalo.

Rick

IPA Hall of Fame Inductees 2018



Leon "Bud" Hundenski



Mollie Busta Lange



Gary Brueggen



Joe Macielag

IPA Award Winners 2017 - Polish Style



Favorite Polish Style Male Vocalist:
Lenny Gomulka



Favorite Polish Style Female Vocalist:
Stacey Morris



Favorite Polish Style Album:
"Dance All Night"
DynaBrass



Favorite Polish Style Song:
"Dance All Night"
DynaBrass



Favorite Polish Style Band:
Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

IPA Award Winners 2017 - International Style



Favorite International Style Male Vocalist:
Steve Meisner



Favorite International Style Female Vocalist:
Mollie Busta Lange



Favorite International Style Polka Album:
"40th Anniversary"
Fred Ziwich & The International Sound Machine



Favorite International Style Song:
"Dunaju Dunaju"
John Jaworski



Favorite International Style Band:
Alex Meixner Band

IPA Newsletter

The "IPA Newsletter" is the official publication of the INTERNATIONAL POLKA ASSOCIATION, INC.®. The "IPA Newsletter" welcomes submissions from readers and will publish them with consideration to space and time requirements. Pictures are welcome but used only when budget and space constraints allow. All items become the property of the IPA. If you would like a photograph returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Editor:

Debbie Dunaj - dunajda07@yahoo.com

Contact us:

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PO Box 1484
Plainfield, IL 60585
1-800-TO-POLKA
(1-800-867-6552)
Website: www.ipapolkas.com

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Membership

Dues are \$15.00 per person for all members. You can also purchase a lifetime membership for only \$200.00 per person. If you would like to join the IPA, please send your check or money order to:

John Krawisz, Financial Secretary
International Polka Association
PO Box 1484
Plainfield, IL 60585
Phone: 630-204-1793
Email: christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net

Renew your membership online!
Visit: www.ipapolkas.com/store

2017-2018 IPA Officers and Directors**Officers:**

President: Rick Rzeszutko (IL)
1st Vice President: Christy Krawisz (IL)
2nd Vice President: Fred Kendzierski (NJ)
Treasurer: Dan Mateja (IL)
Financial Secretary: John Krawisz (IL)
Secretary: Keith Pietranczyk (IL)
Sergeant-At-Arms: Peter Danielczuk (CT)
Media Advisor: Jerry Wantroba (IL)

Directors:

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Dennis Mikolajewski (IL)
Jake Mikrut (IL)
Bonnie Ryniec (IL)
Sue Szela (MA)
Lori Urbanczyk (NY)
John Zelasko (MI)

Would you like your newsletter emailed to you?

The IPA would like to go green! Help us save money on printing costs and postage.

If you would like your newsletter emailed to you, please send an email to christy-ipa@sbcglobal.net.

Please put in the subject line: PLEASE EMAIL MY NEWSLETTER.

**IPA RADIO SHOW**

Don't forget to listen to the IPA Radio Show on Sundays, 11:00 a.m.—12 noon Central Time on WPNA (1490 AM) in Chicago or via the internet at www.radiowpna.com.

Each show features IPA officers and directors including Rick Rzeszutko, Laura Mateja, Christy Krawisz, John Krawisz, Bonnie Ryniec, Dennis Mikolajewski, Keith Pietranczyk, Jerry Wantroba, and Dan Mateja.

The IPA Radio Show is also broadcast on the Polka Jammer Network on Saturdays from 4-5 p.m. Central Time and also available in the Polka Jammer archives. Be sure to tune in! Visit www.polkajammernetwork.org

Please call 1-800-TO-POLKA if you are interesting in advertising on the IPA Radio Show. WE NEED SPONSORS!

49th Annual IPA Polka Music Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet

Saturday, September 1st

10:00 AM Cocktails
11:00 AM Luncheon

Tickets are \$50 per person by advance reservation only. Reservations for the banquet must be made before August 18, 2018 by sending a check or money order made payable to the International Polka Association with the reservation form below to:

Polka Music Hall of Fame and Awards Banquet
c/o Rick Rzeszutko
3809 S Damen Ave
Chicago, IL 60609
musico@comcast.net
773-847-7490



2018 Polka Music Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Number of Banquet Tickets _____

Admission

Friday: \$15
Saturday: \$20
Sunday: \$20

3-Day Pass: \$50

Available for purchase at the door on Friday, August 31 only.

Children under 16 will be admitted FREE when accompanied by their parents.



Hotel Reservations

Tower rooms are available for \$119 plus tax, per night. Mention the IPA Polka Festival to receive the reduced rate. Reservations must be made by August 18, 2018. Rooms subject to availability.

Additional Information

800-TO-POLKA
www.ipapolkas.com
www.facebook.com/ipapolkas

50th Annual International Polka Festival

August 31 -
September 2, 2018

Millennium Hotel Buffalo
2040 Walden Avenue
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
(716) 681-2400
www.millenniumhotels.com/buffalo

FRIDAY August 31st

Welcome Party
(Courtyard)
2:30 - 5:30 PM
Special Delivery

Sponsored by:



7:00 PM - 1:00 AM
Lenny Gomulka &
Chicago Push

Jackie Libera &
The Classix

SATURDAY September 1st

Pool Party
(Courtyard)
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Phocus

4:30 PM - 1:30 AM
The Project

The Boys
IPA Tribute Band

SUNDAY September 2nd

Polka Mass
10:00 AM
The KOSMIX

SUNDAY September 2nd

11:00 AM
Annual Election of Officers
& Convention Meeting
(IPA members only)

12:15 - 12:45 PM
The KOSMIX

12:45 - 1:45 PM
IPA Jam Session
Bring your instruments!

2:00 PM - 1:00 AM
Ray Jay &
The Carousels

Eddie Forman
Orchestra

The Knewz
Polka Country
Musicians

CONTACT THE IPA

1-800-TO-POLKA
www.ipapolkas.com

IPA Polka Hall of Fame Inductees

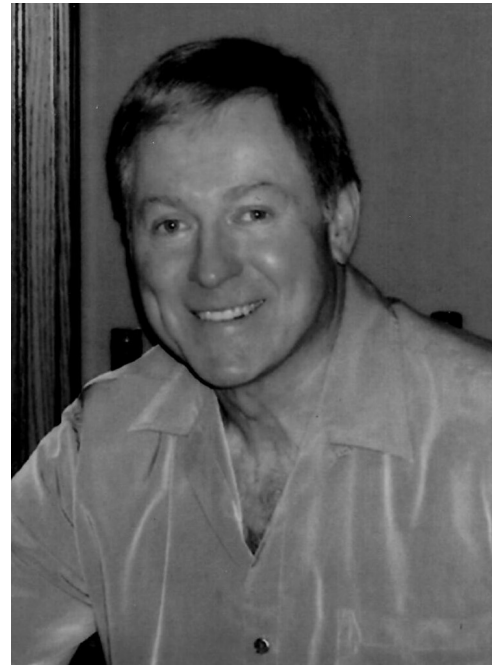
Joseph Macielag Pioneer Category



Joseph Macielag began his musical career with clarinet lessons at the age of 14. Two years later, he was invited to join the Rydzewski Brothers Trio from Niagara Falls, NY. Influenced by Frank Wojnarowski, Joseph organized a nine-piece orchestra that played its first gig when he was only 18. By the age of 21, he was on the road with his band backing up the famed vocalist, Marisha Data. Later, Joseph's Pic-A-Polka Orchestra teamed up with Frank Wojnarowski to produce the "Pic-A-Polka" TV show on Buffalo's Channel 2, WGR-TV. The band went on to back up many polka hall of fame vocalists which lead to Joseph headlining the popular TV show. To this day, his band is considered one of the finest groups to come out of western New York. In addition to being a celebrated bandleader and musician, he became a respected vocalist, arranger, promoter, and historian of eastern-style polka music. Joseph was also very active in the Polish American community, having served as President of the western New York division of the Polish American Congress.

For his many accomplishments in the polka industry, Joseph Macielag has been deemed deserving by the electorate of the International Polka Association for induction into the Polka Music Hall of Fame®.

Leon "Bud" Hundenski Deceased Category



Leon "Bud" Hundenski was born in Canonsburg, PA on July 26, 1944. After his dad bought him his first accordion, he started taking private lessons at age 9. As a youth, Bud won many solo amateur contests and he formed his own trio by the time he was in Junior High School. At 17, he accepted an invitation to join Pittsburgh's Bob Gazda Band and went on to record and perform with the popular group until he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1965. After serving his duty, he collaborated with skilled musicians to form Bud Hundenski and The Corsairs. The band's first album, "Polkas That Swing," featuring Bud's original hit composition of the same name, won national acclaim. Over the next four decades, the band recorded ten albums, appeared on various TV shows, and toured through much of the U.S. and Canada. In 2011, their "Resurgence" album won the Polka America Corporation of Excellence (PACE) "Polka Album of the Year" award. An accomplished bandleader, TV-recording artist, composer, publisher, musician, family man, and humanitarian, Bud passed away on January 23, 2016.

For his many accomplishments in the polka industry, Leon "Bud" Hundenski has been deemed deserving by the electorate of the International Polka Association for induction into the Polka Music Hall of Fame®.

IPA Polka Hall of Fame Inductees

Mollie Busta Lange
Living Category

Mollie Busta Lange, commonly known as “Mollie B,” has been active in the polka industry her entire life. She began at age 3 on vocals with *The Jim Busta Band*, and to date, has performed in 35 states and 11 countries in addition to appearing on over 35 recordings. Always involving polka music, Mollie has been an educator and role model through her performances, dance lessons, and school workshops. While best known as the host and a co-producer of the nationally syndicated TV program the “Mollie B Polka Party,” she has also co-hosted a Sirius XM Radio Show, performed in the Warner Brothers film, “The Mule;” hosted the Wisconsin PBS documentary, “POLKA!;” performed on the National PBS Special, “Polka Passion;” performed on the “Big Joe Polka Show;” and has produced and directed large Christmas shows in Branson and beyond. Mollie performs on many instruments with *SqueezeBox*, is in the Wisconsin & Iowa Polka Halls of Fame, and has been named the “Favorite Female Vocalist” multiple years by the USPA & IPA.

For her many accomplishments in the polka industry, Mollie Busta Lange has been deemed deserving by the electorate of the International Polka Association for induction into the Polka Music Hall of Fame®.

Gary Brueggen
Living Category

Gary Brueggen was born in the small farming community of Cashton, WI where at the young age of 2 he became captivated by polka music he heard on the radio. Recognizing his potential, Gary’s parents bought him his first set of drums at 5 years old and by the time he was 9, he played his first job with The Ridgeland Dutchmen. At age 10, he was given his first concertina, which began his magical career with the bellowed instrument. Gary eventually took over leadership of the band with his father and uncle and they became a favorite throughout the Midwest, toured nationally and internationally, and went on to record 16 albums and two DVDs for the Mollie B Polka Party on RFD-TV. Along with concertina and drums, Gary taught himself to play piano, button box, tuba, trumpet, and valve trombone and is proud to represent the 17th generation of the Brueggen family musical legacy. Over the years, he also found time to perform and record with a host of other bands and to broadcast polka music on various radio stations.

For his many accomplishments in the polka industry, Gary Brueggen has been deemed deserving by the electorate of the International Polka Association for induction into the Polka Music Hall of Fame®.

IPA Festival - 3-Day Passes

Three-day passes for the festival will only be available on Friday, August 31 at the door. Passes will be \$50 for the weekend and will be available at a specially designated table on Friday evening.

Daily admission prices:

Friday: \$15
Saturday: \$20
Sunday: \$20

IPA Ad Book

We are currently in the process of soliciting ads for our 2018 Festival Souvenir Program Book. The ads placed in the Program Book will be viewed by many people and are distributed during the weekend. The Program Book serves as a good channel for individuals to congratulate or memorialize friends and family members. It also serves as a great resource for you to promote a business or venture to other members and guests who will be there from all over the country. We ask for your consideration in taking out an ad in this year's program ad book. Ad rates are as follows:

Full Page Ad - \$65
Half Page Ad - \$40
Qtr. Page Ad - \$30
Well Wishers - \$1 per line

Also, in honor of our 50th anniversary, we will be incorporating gold pages into the ad book for a nominal charge. All gold pages must be full-page ads.

Deadline for submissions is **August 4**. If you have any questions regarding the Program Book (ads, contract, content criteria, layout, costs, formats, etc.) please contact the Program Ad Book Chairperson or visit ipapolkas.com to download the form:

Keith Pietranczyk
polkadancinman@comcast.net
630.908.0350

Thank you for your continued support of the International Polka Association.

IPA Room Blocks - ALMOST SOLD OUT!

We are excited to see many of our friends and IPA members at our festival. There are less than 10 rooms available at the IPA group rate. Select rooms may still be available at the Millennium Hotel but at their rack rate.

PLEASE NOTE: if you are unable to attend the festival and have a room reserved at the Millennium, please call us at 800-TO-POLKA (800-857-6552) to make arrangements to have your room re-assigned. Cancelled rooms will not be re-booked at the special IPA rates.

Friday, August 31

2:30pm—5:30 pm	Welcome Party with Special Delivery
7:00pm—8:00pm	Jackie Libera & The Classix
8:00pm—9:00pm	Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
9:00pm—10:00pm	Jackie Libera & The Classix
10:00pm—11:00pm	Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push
11:00pm—12:00am	Jackie Libera & The Classix
12:00am—1:00am	Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

Saturday, September 1

11:00am	Hall of Fame & Music Awards Banquet
11:00am—3:00pm	Pool Party with Phocus
4:30pm—5:20pm	IPA Tribute Band
5:20pm—6:10pm	The Boys
6:10pm—7:00pm	The Project
7:00pm—7:30pm	Past IPA Queen Introductions
7:30pm—8:30pm	IPA Tribute Band
8:30pm—9:30pm	The Boys
9:30pm—10:30pm	The Project
10:30pm—11:30pm	IPA Tribute Band
11:30pm—12:30am	The Boys
12:30am—1:30am	The Project

Sunday, September 2

10:00am	Polka Mass
11:00am	Annual Convention Meeting
12:15—12:45pm	The KOSMIX
12:45—1:45pm	IPA Jam Session (bring your instruments!)
2:00pm—2:45pm	Ray Jay & The Carousels
2:45pm—3:30pm	Eddie Forman Orchestra
3:30pm—4:30pm	Ray Jay & The Carousels
4:30pm—5:30pm	Eddie Forman Orchestra
5:30pm—6:30pm	Ray Jay & The Carousels
6:30pm	IPA Raffle Drawing
6:30pm—7:30pm	Eddie Forman Orchestra
7:30pm—8:15pm	The Knewz
8:15pm—9:00pm	Polka Country Musicians
9:00pm—10:00pm	The Knewz
10:00pm—11:00pm	Polka Country Musicians
11:00pm—12:00am	The Knewz
12:00am—1:00am	Polka Country Musicians

(schedule subject to change)

Press Release: IPA Celebrates Fifty Years

Chicago, IL— The International Polka Association (IPA), an organization dedicated to the promotion and advancement of polka music, will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary with an International Polka Festival and Awards Banquet, being held August 31 to September 2, 2018 in Buffalo, NY.

The event, which draws polka fans from throughout the country, will present some of polka music's top-name bands over the three days and will also feature its annual banquet and awards ceremony, at which both bands and individuals are honored for their efforts in polkas. A highlight of the awards banquet is the induction of five individuals into the International Polka Music Hall of Fame.

"This is an exciting time for the IPA as we not only reflect on our accomplishments of the past half-century, but we also look forward to possibilities for what lies ahead," said Rick Rzeszutko, IPA president. "We've witnessed a lot over these last 50 years. And although we've seen the music go through some very lean times, we are currently seeing a real resurgence in the interest in polkas. We are seeing more and more young people at dances and festivals, as well as a growing number of young musicians who *want* to play polkas. That's an amazing thing to see and bodes well for the future of our genre."

This year's IPA Hall of Fame inductees will be honored in an awards ceremony to be held Saturday, September 1, 2018. They include: Mollie Busta Lange and Gary Brueggen (Living Category); Leon "Bud" Hundenski (Deceased Category); and Joe Macielag (Pioneer Category). Rich Bernier will receive the coveted Leon Kozicki Award for his 50+ years of work with polka bands throughout New England.

Music-related awards include:

Favorite International Style CD: "40th Anniversary Recording," Fred Ziwich & His International Sound Machine

Favorite International Style Song: "Dunaju Dunaju," John Jaworski

Favorite International Style Band: The Alex Meixner Band

Favorite International Style Female Vocalist: Mollie Busta Lange

Favorite International Style Male Vocalist: Steve Meisner

Favorite Polish Style CD: "Dance All Night," The DynaBrass

Favorite Polish Style Song: "Dance All Night," The DynaBrass

Favorite Polish Style Band: Lenny Gomulka & Chicago Push

Favorite Polish Style Female Vocalist: Stacey Morris

Favorite Polish Style Male Vocalist: Lenny Gomulka

In addition to the "main event" being held in Buffalo, the IPA will also host a 50th Anniversary celebration in Chicago, offering a mass, sit-down polish-style dinner with cocktails, and music by "The Boys". This exciting event will take place at the legendary Polonia Banquets on October 28, 2018. "This will be a semi-formal affair that will give us a chance to celebrate — in style — in Chicago, the city in which the IPA was originally founded," said Rzeszutko. "We are excited for it all."

The International Polka Festival and Awards Banquet will be held from August 31 to September 2, 2018 at the Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga, N.Y. 14225. For more information, contact 1-800-TO-POLKA (1-800-867-6552).

Written by: Larry Trojak

IPA Festival Raffle Tickets

The IPA will be holding a raffle drawing during the 50th Anniversary Festival and Convention. Tickets are \$1 each or a book of 6 for \$5. Raffle tickets were mailed in a separate mailing and can be returned with the envelope provided or turned in at the festival.

Additional tickets will also be available for purchase at the festival. Please send in money and ticket stubs no later than **August 24, 2018.**

Drawing will be held on Sunday, September 2, 2018, at approximately 6:30 pm. Winners need not be present.

Cash prizes include:

1st Prize:	\$500
2nd Prize:	\$200
3rd Prize:	\$100
4 th Prize:	\$50
5 th Prize:	\$50
6 th Prize:	\$50
7 th Prize:	\$50

A Half Century of Polkas

In polka music, as in the world outside of it, the year 1968 ranks as one of the most pivotal in modern memory. While that year marks a time when the country was reeling in political and social unrest, polkas were instead exploding with the debut of new bands, new festivals and, most importantly, new organizations to further promote this unique, infectious genre of music. Heading up a push to formalize that effort was an upstart group of Chicago-based promoters, radio personalities, musicians, and business leaders who, recognizing the appeal of the music and the potential it held, wanted to broaden its reach. Their collective efforts led to the founding of the International Polka Association (IPA) which, in 2018, is proudly celebrating a major milestone with its 50th Anniversary. And, in true polka fashion, hundreds of rabid polka fans from throughout the country will help the IPA mark this memorable occasion, at the organization's 50th Annual International Polka Festival being held over the Labor Day weekend in Buffalo, NY.

Windy City Roots

With a Polish population that, at the time, was second only to Warsaw, Poland, it's not surprising that the concept of a national polka convention was developed and pioneered in Chicago. The home to immensely popular yearly moonlight dances which attracted thousands of polka lovers from all parts of the U.S. and Canada – Chicago hosted its first polka convention in 1963. Dubbed the "International Polka Convention," the event was presented in succeeding years in Chicago, Detroit, and Buffalo.

In January of 1968, a steering committee comprised of musician and tavern owner Johnny Hyzny; musician Leon Kozicki; tavern proprietors Joe and Jean Salomon; and musicians Eddie Blazonczyk and Don Jodkowski met to discuss plans for the next convention. After a series of meetings they soon realized that the formal establishment of an organization dedicated to the advancement of polka music was needed. In August of that year, the International Polka Association was formed and officially chartered by the State of Illinois as a "not for profit" corporation and registered with the County of Cook (Chicago, Illinois).

The goals of the International Polka Association are the same today as they were in 1968. As stated in its charter, the IPA was organized as: "An educational and charitable organization for the preservation, promulgation and advancement of polka music and; to promote, maintain and advance public interest in polka entertainment; to advance the mutual interests and encourage greater cooperation among its members who are engaged in polka entertainment; and to encourage and pursue the study of polka music, dancing and traditional folklore."

A Pair of Kings

Since 1968, the International Polka Festival has been presented under the auspices of the International Polka Association. Not satisfied simply providing a single event at which polka lovers could express their love for the music, the delegates to the 1968 Convention approved the establishment of the Polka Music Hall of Fame and the annual presentation of its Polka Music Awards.

Seeing efforts made by their counterparts in other music genres to honor musicians who truly excelled at their craft, leaders in the polka industry had, for years, contemplated the formation of an institution that could also properly recognize deserving performers, recording artists, TV and radio personalities, promoters, and other professionals in the polka field. Never a group to shy away from added responsibility, the delegates to the 1968 International Polka Association Convention approved the establishment of the Polka Music Hall of Fame to honor those who made significant contributions to the advancement and promotion of polka music. The following year, famed Cleveland Frankie Yankovic and Chicago native Li'l Wally Jagiello — each who bore the title of "America's Polka King" — were the inaugural inductees into the International Polka Association's Polka Music Hall of Fame.

It's an Honor

Over the years, many enhancements have been made to the manner in which individuals are elected into the Polka Music Hall of Fame. Currently, twelve trustees, who oversee an academy of 180 national electors, administer the functions of the institution. Each year the academy elects four polka personalities for Hall of Fame induction: two living, one deceased, and one in the organization's "pioneer" category. To qualify, all candidates must have demonstrated at least twenty-five years of dedicated service in the polka industry, accomplished significant achievements, and attained national notoriety. Additional honors are awarded to personalities who have either excelled as sidemen or sidewomen in polka groups, or contributed to polkas in a peripheral manner such as through promotion, broadcasting, etc.

(continued on next page)

A Half Century of Polkas - Continued

That same academy also votes for the annual winners of the IPA Polka Music Awards in categories such as Favorite Polish-Style CD; Favorite Polish-Style Song; Favorite Polish Style Male Vocalist, etc. Similar selections are made for International-Style honorees as well. A third-party professional auditor is retained and entrusted to tabulate the ballots, certify the winners, and report all election results to the IPA Executive Board.

Additional Contributions

Largely through the efforts of the IPA, the month of January has been proclaimed “National Polka Music Month.” Doing so has proven successful in raising the awareness of polkas as a whole and encouraging additional promotion through dances and other events. The annual International Polka Festival, in addition to featuring proven, successful talent, has also served as a showcase for new, deserving polka talent, thereby helping solidify the continued growth of the genre. Other IPA contributions include: a host of functions conducted under the auspices of the IPA that are regularly presented in various states; establishment of a weekly IPA radio program; a monthly news bulletin that keeps members informed of the organization’s business affairs, as well as polka-related events and news from across the country; a website and a fledgling social media presence.

In keeping with its mission to “preserve, promulgate, and grow public interest in polka music,” the International Polka Association also provides continuous financial support to sustain and improve the Polka Music Hall of Fame and Museum. In addition to honoring deserving polka personalities, the museum contains an impressive collection of polka-related artifacts, sheet music, recordings, and memorabilia, and makes it all available — by appointment — as an educational resource for anyone interested in polka music. The collection is currently displayed at Polonia Banquets, 4608 S. Archer Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

IPA Board Requirements

Listed below are the requirements for candidacy for the IPA Board of Directors. Also listed are the positions that are up for re-election in 2018. Elections will be held Sunday, September 2, during the IPA Convention in Buffalo, New York.

All Positions: Nominees shall not occupy any appointed or elected office of any other polka association. No nomination shall be valid unless agreed to by the nominee. A willingness to seek and accept office must be done in person at the general meeting. If unable to attend the annual meeting, candidates may also submit a signed letter. Such letters can be submitted for consideration in any of the following ways: brought to the meeting by another member, given to an officer or director in advance of the meeting, mailed to the IPA - 4608 South Archer Avenue, Chicago, IL 60632, or emailed to ipapolkas@gmail.com.

Positions up for re-election in 2018:

- President
 - 1-year term, must reside in Illinois and must have served at least two years on the Executive Board
- 2nd Vice President
 - 2-year term, must reside outside of Illinois and be a member in good standing for one year
- Financial Secretary
 - 2-year term, must reside in Illinois and be a member in good standing for one year
- (3) Illinois Directors
 - 2-year term, must reside in Illinois and be a member in good standing for one year
- (3) Non-Illinois Directors
 - 2-year term, must reside outside of Illinois and be a member in good standing for one year.

Requirements: Nominees must have the capability to communicate using e-mail **and** dial-in conference calls. Meetings are generally held on Tuesdays, but flexibility in this regard is appreciated.

IPA Reaches 1,000 Member Goal!!

The last time the IPA had 1,000 members was back in 1994. Our goal this year was to reach that 1,000 membership mark again and see how many members we can get by our International Polka Association's 50th Annual Festival and Convention on Labor Day weekend. As of the printing of this newsletter, we are currently at 1,006 members!

Congratulations to our 1,000th member, Teddy Gomulka! Teddy is also the IPA's youngest member.

We are happy to announce that due to the hard work and dedication of IPA Director, Laura Mateja, who did an outstanding job at the IPA Membership drive that was held at Seven Springs over the 4th of July weekend, that goal was reached. We would also like to thank Dennis Mikolajewski for running the membership drive on July 11th in Indiana.

We would also like to thank Lenny Gomulka, Mike Matousek, John Gora and all of the bands that helped us promote our membership drive. In addition, we would like to thank, Lori Urbanczyk and Diane Pojedynski for helping out that weekend, and thank you to the Blazonczyk family for allowing us to have a membership drive at Seven Springs.

Our next membership drive will be held at the Frankenmuth Summer Music Festival August 10th and 11th, 2018. Please stop by to Join, Renew your membership and purchase one of our 50th Anniversary T-Shirts. You could also join by visiting the "IPA Store" at ipapolkas.com.

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership throughout the years and to everyone who has joined recently, thank you for being a part in making our goal possible.

—Christy Krawisz



POLKA PARTY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019

Featuring: EFO Eddie Forman Orchestra

Time: 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Place: Englewood Elks Lodge
401 N. Indiana Avenue
Englewood, FL

Phone: 941-474-1404



Info: \$16.00 per ticket in advance -- \$18.00 at the door

****Cash or money order only**** Doors and Kitchen open at 4:30 pm – Food available

IPA Upcoming Events

**INTERNATIONAL POLKA ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL
- Summer Picnic -**

SATURDAY AUGUST 4, 2018
HAMMOND MOHAWKS PICNIC GROVE
4040 CALUMET AVE. HAMMOND, IN 46230

GATES OPEN AT 1:30PM - MUSIC FROM 2 - 8PM

MUSIC BY
TONY BLAZONCZYK'S NEW PHAZE
&
THE WINDY CITY BRASS

ADMISSION \$12
SHOW YOUR VALID
IPA MEMBERSHIP CARD
FOR \$2 OFF!




delicious grilled food & bar
refreshments available for purchase

EVENT HELD RAIN OR SHINE!
COVERED PAVILION, TENTS, LARGE DANCE FLOOR
& INDOOR RESTROOMS TOO!

I.P.A. MEMBERSHIP TABLE & T-SHIRT SALES
WWW.IPAPOLKAS.COM

Please join the International Polka Association's
**50th Anniversary Mass,
Dinner, and Dance Celebration**
Semi-Formal Event • **ADVANCED RESERVATIONS ONLY**

Sunday, October 28, 2018
Polonia Banquets • 4604 S. Archer Avenue • Chicago, IL
Doors open at 11:30 AM • 12:00 PM Mass celebrated by Father Bob Roll
1:00 PM dinner served

Featuring a fabulous Family Style Polish dinner including chicken, polish sausage, beef,
Polonia's famous dumplings, and more!

Music and Dancing 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM by:
The Boys

Reservation and payment deadline:
October 16, 2018.

Adults - \$45/person
Teens (13-20) - \$35/person
Kids (4-12) - \$15/person
Children 4 and under - FREE!

**PRICE INCLUDES FOUR HOURS
OF OPEN BAR FROM 2:00 - 6:00 PM!**




Raffles, photo booth, giveaways, and lots of surprises! Call: 1-800-T0-POLKA (1-800-867-6552)
Visit ipapolkas.com and [facebook.com/ipapolkas](https://www.facebook.com/ipapolkas)

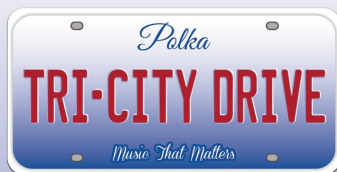
Please fill out the form below:

Please mail check to: International Polka Association, PO Box 1484, Plainfield, IL 60585.
Make Check Payable to IPA
NO TICKETS WILL BE MAILED. EMAIL ADDRESS NEEDED FOR TICKET CONFIRMATION.

Name: _____ E-mail Address: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Phone Number (required): _____
Number of Adult tickets (\$45): _____ Number of Teen tickets (\$35): _____
Number of Kids tickets (\$15): _____ Kids under 4 (FREE): _____
Total Enclosed: _____



The International Polka Association Presents:



Sunday, September 23, 2018

Rib River Ballroom

3237 E Hwy 29 Marathon, WI 54448 (10 miles west of Wausau)

Doors open at 12:30 PM • Music and Dancing 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM by:

Tri-City Drive

\$10 Admission – \$2 off with IPA Membership Card!



For more information call: 1-800-867-6552
or visit ipapolkas.com and [facebook.com/ipapolkas](https://www.facebook.com/ipapolkas)

IPA Chicago 50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend!
Saturday, October 27, & Sunday, October 28, 2018

Special IPA Hotel Weekend Rate:

Holiday Inn Express and Suites at Midway Airport

6650 South Cicero Avenue
Bedford Park, IL 60648
(708) 458-0202

<http://ichotelsgroup.com/redirect?path=rates&brandCode=EX&GPC=IPA&hotelCode=CHIMW&PMID=99801505>

\$109.00 per night (plus tax) & FREE PARKING Friday thru Sunday (10/26/18 - 10/28/18)

Please be advised: Confirmations will state a parking fee will be charged, but please disregard, as that is an automatically-generated statement.

Come in early and visit Chicago!

Anyone calling in needs to mention the "IPA" Polka Rate in order to receive the discounted rate and free parking! Please note: the online rate does NOT include free parking!

*****FIVE Restaurants located on campus!**

*****FREE Continental Breakfast**

*****FREE Parking (valued @ \$17 per car, per night)**

3 minutes from Midway Airport

13 minutes from Polonia Banquet Hall (**HOME OF THE IPA HALL OF FAME!**)

Saturday Evening "Get Together" – Details Coming Soon!

Welcome New Members!

Donna Zientarski, IL
 Joe Macielag, NY
 Cherie Hafeman, WI
 Brian Hafeman, WI
 Darryl Bielski, NY
 Violet Wasielewski, PA
 Mary Freehling, PA
 Jeffrey Behrens, WI
 Erica Bulanda-McMaster, IL
 Mary Komurek, AZ
 Carol Schminkski, MN
 Daniel Durski, MD
 Eric Cieslak, NY
 Dorothy Cerilli, NH
 Tom Lakowicz, MI
 Rhonda Lackowski, MI
 Joe Kalinowski, MA
 Marianne Buzinski, MI
 Sandra Hrynio, NY
 Ken Anderson, PA
 Dr. Mitchell White, TX
 David Korch, PA
 Basia Toboy, MI
 Richard Kois, PA
 Raymond Lozinski, MA
 Richard Biela, OH
 Michael Biela, WV
 Brian Earl, OH
 Bob Earl, OH
 Sandy Earl, OH
 Glen Embree, PA

Mark Smoko, PA
 Pamela Reed, PA
 Jim Stanish, PA
 Matthew Martin, PA
 Ralph Sabatini, MI
 John Kaiser, PA
 Walter Goralczyk, OH
 Alan Andrascik, PA
 Linda Swiderski, OH
 Jean Latawiec, SC
 Ronald Latawiec, SC
 Sara Latawiec, SC
 Krysta Latawiec, SC
 Frania Yakima, PA
 Mitch Paprocki, Canada
 Chris Kaczmarczyk, PA
 Estelle Gomulka, MA
 Teddy Gomulka, MA
 Mindi Tietz, MI
 Jack Sanocki, VA
 Alicia Bliznik, IL
 Tony Ayala, IN
 Alex Saltanovitz, Jr., IN
 Batuhan Eisen, IL
 Bonnie Sergel, IL

LIFETIME MEMBERS:

Lawrence M. Stec, MI
 Annie Stec, MI

Members are very important to the International Polka Association! If your membership is up for renewal, please send your renewal and dues as soon as possible. Membership dues are \$15.00 per year or \$200.00 for a lifetime membership. Renew online at www.ipapolkas.com.

Did You Know?

Did you know the International Polka Association is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization as recognized by the IRS? All donations to the IPA are tax-deductible.

Thank You

Thank you to the following individuals for their donations to the International Polka Association:

- Lisa Zapiec
- Brian Koslosky
- Erika Danner
- Bonnie Krebsback

We sincerely thank you for your contributions and support of the International Polka Association.

In Memoriam

We wish the family and friends of IPA member John Robinson our deepest sympathies. May he rest in peace.

Happy 100th Birthday!

Please join us in wishing a special 100th birthday to IPA member, Jeanette Adamczyk. Jeannete celebrated her milestone birthday on July 27. She is the wife of IPA Polka Hall of Famer, Steve Adamczyk. Happy Birthday, Jeanette!

Important Dates to Remember!

August 4:	IPA General Member Meeting; 1:45 PM Hammond, Indiana
August 4:	IPA Picnic; 2-8PM Hammond, Indiana
August 4:	Deadline for IPA Ad Book submissions
August 17:	Deadline for IPA Awards Banquet Reservations
August 24:	Deadline to mail festival raffle tickets
August 31-Sept. 2:	IPA 50th Annual Festival & Convention; Buffalo, NY
September 23:	IPA Wisconsin Dance with Tri-City Drive; Marathon, WI
October 16:	Deadline for IPA 50th Anniversary Dance reservations
October 28:	IPA 50th Anniversary Dance; Chicago, IL



IPA Birthdays



June

July

- 1: Michael Skalecki; Ron Buczko; Krystal Latawiec; Alicia Bliznik
- 2: Jack Sanocki
- 3: Bernie Gorak, Sr.; Eric Cieslak
- 4: Richie Sendra; Bob Jakubielski; Waldemar Rudziecki
- 5: Jeannette Zobro; Stan Pasko; Richard Biela
- 6: Robert Banoczi; Mary Jo Liccar; Carl Simchena; Joseph Heier
- 7: Debbie Dunaj; Rich Benkowski; Joe Kizior; Jan Ozymy
- 8: Ted Jedrzejewicz; Greg Dybas; Alex Saltanovitz, Jr
- 9: Lambert Lasecki
- 10: John Baras; Eugene Kasprovicz; Dale Kivinen; Johnny Karas; Tom Lakowicz
- 11: Wayne Drust; Eddie Ostry
- 12: Butch Herrmann; Chet Kowalkowski
- 13: Walter Berkowicz; Henry Sokolowski; Richard Bernier; Pamela Reed; Teddy Gomulka
- 14: Judy Kwiatkowski; Larry Breitbch
- 15: Kevin Cornnell; Carol Benamati
- 16: Aaron Slivinski; Michelle Morgiewicz
- 17: David Jackson
- 18: Kevin Weinstock
- 19: Tony Crispo; Bernard Krygowski
- 20: Bud Beyer; Karen Dekoski; Paul Rite; Joey Falch
- 21: Dan Gury
- 22: Joanne Kozleski Jones; Robert Krupka; Jerry Rymanowski
- 23: Ed Krupinski; David DeFields; Mark Smoko
- 24: Kenneth Dunaj; Mollie Busta Lange; Jay Skiba; Julie Matus
- 26: Mary Ann Makatenas; John Filipczak; Joe Zalewski; Wayne Machnicki
- 27: Joseph Wondolowski
- 28: Julcia Dusseault; Frank Blajda
- 29: Ron Urbanczyk; Bob Frydryk

- 1: Adam Biskup
- 3: Ken Yash; Keith Wesolek
- 4: Hank Haller; Mike Reynolds; CW Benson; Ronald Latawiec; Sara Latawiec
- 5: Jan Sweet; Michael Costa
- 6: Steve Litwin; Rita Niewierowski; Erika Danner; Jennifer Bulanda Ruitenber; Tom Frydryk; Dennis Polisky; Elizabeth Rozek
- 7: Andrew Putz; Felix Sobceki; Benita Szymanski; Jerry Romanowski
- 8: Eugene Retka; Carl Prushinski; Cletus Roh
- 9: Bea Zawada; John Wisneski; Reed Lesiak
- 10: Jerry Wantroba; Brian Talaske; John Matyjas; Thomas Mazurowski
- 11: John Kupka
- 12: Danny Fabeck
- 13: Theresa Pawlicki; Marie Marek; Stas Golonka; Mark Komar; Kenny Torres
- 14: William Stasila; Ronald Ziemba; Sophie Skinger
- 15: Arthur Kalena; Wally Dombrowski; Laurie Pala Robert Moon
- 16: Thomas Hartwig; Cheryl Furmaniak
- 17: Thomas Kalinowski; Pat Mikos
- 18: Steve Swiader; Maggie Zabielski; Lori Yash
- 19: Sue Conway; Sue Skurzewski; Bill Gliwa
- 20: Gary McKee; Randy Cernosek
- 21: Donna Piatkowski; Ron Potenski; Joe Macielag
- 22: Bonnie Potoniec; Steven Sopko; Roman (Travers) Truskolaski
- 23: Carol Dzieglowicz; Larry Stec
- 24: Richard Stech
- 25: Eddie Labuda
- 26: Karen Mikrut; Ed Nicoski
- 27: John Gora, Dr. Ann Hetzel Gunkel; Mary Alice Pavey; Estelle Gomulka
- 28: Lorraine Matusovich; George Rosinski; Mirosław Antas; Paulina Zielinski; James Patak; Lynn Kizewski
- 29: Kathy Urbanczyk; Jane Gelineau; Peter Bezler; Ron Raczkowski; Ted Okrzesik, Sr.
- 30: Bob Sendra; Arthur Kott
- 31: Len Fornek



IPA Birthdays



August

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1: Mary Lesniak; Frank Stanger | 19: Mike Matousek; Michael Retka |
| 2: Chuck Stastny; Patty Daigle; Tony Blazonczyk; Patricia Mazur | 20: Ken Machelski; Patricia Huch |
| 3: Mike Stapinski; Maria Dipyatic | 21: Mike Maduzia; Tony Petkovsek; Wesley Matus; Carolyn Baras; Tammy Arnes; |
| 4: Susan Matysiewicz; Kathleen Zielinski; Happy Louie Dusseault; Lynn Kaminski; Bonnie Ryniec | 22: Julianne Mossak; Michelle Eron |
| 5: Rose Marie Tynski; Dianne Zawisza; Max Kawa; Wally Czaska | 23: Stas Golembewski; Randy Vokral |
| 6: MaryAnn Jukubielski; Marcia Muscato | 24: Maggie McCaughey |
| 7: John "Foo" Furmaniak; Ed Guca; Camille Hjelm; Pete Jend; Chris Prochot | 25: Rose Marie Sukacz; Steve Wejrowski |
| 8: Walter Mendel; Lotti Rogacki | 26: Mary Ann Moon |
| 9: Kelly Stec; John Cieplik; Jeff Tomczak; Chris Makarewicz | 27: Martin Babich |
| 10: Helen Curtin; Jim Kucharski; Bob Houston | 28: Joyce Fornek; Judy Krason; Pat Wagner |
| 11: Dave Ulczycki; Keith Pietranczyk; Chris Zawisza | 29: Doug Dunaj; Keith Gennerman |
| 12: Leonard Wolski; Tammy Kirsch | 30: Dianne Winiarz; Grazyna Danielczuk; Sandra Hrynio |
| 13: Carol Forman; Steve Zalewski; Joanie Stryk-Rethlake | |
| 14: Wanda Kowalik; Barry Niccolai; Marcia Kitrys | |
| 15: Ed Svoboda; Edward Burczyk; Michelle Bojczuk; Joe Bosch | |
| 16: Francine Pawlicki | |
| 17: Tim Wolter; Cheryl Rognerud; Doris Goche-Benson | |
| 18: Carol Trzebiatowski | |

50th Anniversary Hall of Fame and Music Awards Banquet

Saturday, September 1, 2018

Millennium Hotel; Buffalo, NY
Cocktail Hour begins at 10:00 AM
Banquet begins at 11:00 AM

Tickets for this event are \$50 per person and can be purchased by contacting Rick Rzeszutko: musico@comcast.net

Mail your check made payable to the International Polka Association (IPA) to:
IPA Banquet c/o Rick Rzeszutko
3809 S Damen Ave
Chicago, IL 60609
Deadline for reservations are **August 17, 2018.**

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- Shining Moon Waltz
- Who'd Ya Like to Love Ya
- Flloyd and the 9 Horseman
- I Want a Girl
- Green Parrot
- Evening Bells Waltz
- Loved Three Times
- Pinke Pinke
- Back in Baby's Arms
- Morning Has Broken
- What Went Wrong?
- Life Goes On Waltz
- Be Kind to Your Parents!

Bonus Tracks!
The "O" Granddads!!

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\$1000 FREDDY K JR MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



The Freddy K Jr. Music Scholarship Committee is now accepting requests for applications for the 2018 Scholarship award. Applicants must be high school seniors who have been accepted to an accredited college and play a musical instrument. Anyone who is interested in applying for this year's award can download an application on our website at www.freddykjrmusicscholarship.com or contact the Scholarship Committee at the following address:

The Freddy K Jr. Scholarship Fund
23850 Via Italia Circle, Apt #1104
Bonita Springs, Florida 34134

Freddy K Jr. played trumpet in his father's band, **The Freddy K Band**, when he died in an automobile accident in July of 1997. Music, especially Polka Music, was Fred's life and passion. His personality, sense of humor and love of Polka Music affected all who knew him. The Music Scholarship Fund was set up to carry on where Fred left off by promoting polka music through the gift of a \$1,000 Scholarship to a deserving student every year. Each award will be given at one of the polka Festivals during the summer.

WINNERS OF \$1000 SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2017 – Veronica Prytko, Millbury, Massachusetts
- Joseph Blackburn, Troy, New York
- 2016 – Olivia Piatkowski, Canastota, New York
- 2015 – Adam Winiarz, Norton, Massachusetts
- 2014 – Jenna Libera, Charlton, Massachusetts
- 2013 – Eva Snyder, South Hadley, Massachusetts
- 2012 – Justin Kohan, Orchard Park, New York
- 2011 – Stephen Piatkowski, Canastota, New York
- 2010 - Kassandra Dardzinski, Saugus, Massachusetts and
Anita Marie Thomas, Balto, Maryland
- 2009 – David Raccis, Wilbreham, Massachusetts
- 2008 – Christopher Wanyo, Shillington, Pennsylvania
- 2007 – Kevin Martin, Hudson, New Hampshire
- 2006 – Lanella Raccis, Wilbreham, Massachusetts
- 2005 – Nick Koryluk, Hicksville, New York
- 2004 – Michael D. Riel, II, Chicopee, Massachusetts
- 2003 – Ryan Ogrodny, White Oak, Pennsylvania
- 2002 – Brian Romianik, Millville, New Jersey
- 2001 – Melissa Mocadlo, Stevens Point, Wisconsin
- 2000 – Andrew Krystopolski, Wilmington, Delaware
- 1999 – William Lomnychuk, Reading, Pennsylvania
- 1998 – John Daigle, Chicopee, Massachusetts

Texas Polka News

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While you're there, sign up for our FREE weekly e-newsletter at the top right of the homepage.

IPA Dates to Remember		Advertise in the IPA Newsletter	
August 4:	IPA General Member Meeting; 1:45PM IPA Picnic; 2-8PM Hammond Mohawks; Hammond, IN	One Issue Full Page \$75.00 per issue Half Page..... \$55.00 per issue Quarter Page \$40.00 per Issue Eighth Page..... \$25.00 per issue	
Labor Day Weekend:	50th Annual IPA Festival & Convention; Millennium Hotel; Buffalo, NY	Three Issues Full Page \$67.00 per issue Half Page..... \$45.00 per issue Quarter Page \$36.00 per issue Eighth Page..... \$22.00 per issue	
September 23:	IPA WI Dancd with Tri-City Drive Rib River Ballroom; Marathon, WI	Six Issues Full Page \$60.00 per issue Half Page..... \$40.00 per issue Quarter Page \$32.00 per issue Eighth Page..... \$20.00 per issue	
October 28:	50th Anniversary Mass, Dinner and Dance Celebration Polonia Banquets; Chicago, IL	Email ad files to Debbie Dunaj: dunajda07@yahoo.com.	
IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!! As reminders for membership renewals are mailed out, it would be greatly appreciated if these could be returned <u>as soon as possible</u> . Not only are these fees used to allocate printing and mailing expenses, but for various other causes. So please return your renewals in a timely matter.			

International Polka Association, Inc.®
PO Box 1484; Plainfield, IL 60585
1-800-TO-POLKA (1-800-867-6552)
Website: www.ipapolkas.com

